Bio-Diesel from Jetropha

†4774. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after finding the diesel manufactured from the seeds of the plant namely Ratanjot (Jetropha) appropriate for the vehicles the public sector oil company, the Indian Oil Corporation and the Indian Railways have jointly initiated a drive to grow them on the vacant railway land along the rail-tracks; and

(b) the extent to which the bio-diesel manufactured as such found to be fit and the manner in which the Ratanjot farming is planned to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the Memorandum of Understanding between Railways and Indian Oil Corporation, plantationof Jetropha Curcas trees has been undertaken at some locations of a Zonal Railway. Aside from this, Railways on their own are encouraging plantation of Jetropha, on surplus railway land. Tests with 5% blends, have so far not indicated any adverse effects.

Catering service in the Railways

†4775. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to change the catering service in the railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering to include the food plazas of Indian and foreign brands of companies under this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Indian and foreign brands of companies registered in India are already permitted to participate in allotment process of food plaza licences subject to fulfillment of laid down eligibility criteria in the catering policy of Indian Railways.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.